

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 18127 161347Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 /081 W
----- 027753 /41

R 161036Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0091
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 18127

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IN
SUBJECT: CPI-CONGRESS SCRAPPING AND SNARLING

1. THE INDIAN PRESS FOR THE LAST FEW WEEKS HAS BEEN FILLED WITH ACCUSATIONS AND COUNTER-ACCUSATIONS BETWEEN CPI LEADERS AND JOURNALS AND CONGRESS PARTY MEMBERS. TO A CONSIDERABLE DEGREE THIS HAS REVOLVED AROUND STRUGGLES GOING ON IN ORISSA AND WEST BENGAL OVER THE SURVIVAL OF THE CHIEF MINISTERS IN THESE TWO STATES, BUT ULTIMATELY IT GOES BACK TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S WARNING AT THE GAUHATI CONGRESS PARTY SESSION TO THE CPI NOT TO INTERFERE IN INTERNAL CONGRESS AFFAIRS. MRS. GANDHI SHOWS NO SIGNS OF SHIFTING HER TOUGH STANCE TOWARD THE GPI AND SEEMS READY TO JUNK THEIR SUPPORT COMPLETELY IF THEY PUSH HER TOO FAR.

2. THE CPI ITSELF SINCE MID-NOVEMBER HAS TAKEN TO OPEN ATTACKS ON SANJAY GANDHI, AND CLEARLY SEES HIM AS ITS PRINCIPAL ENEMY. IN THE LAST FEW DAYS, SEVERAL CONGRESS MPS AND PERSONS CLOSE TO THE GANDHI HOUSEHOLD HAVE TOLD US THAT THE DECISION TO TAKE ON THE CPI IS THE MOST
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 18127 161347Z

POPULAR POLITICAL ACTION TAKEN SINCE THE EMERGENCY BEGAN AND IS BEING WIDELY WELCOMED AT DISTRICT CONGRESS LEVELS. PETITIONS FROM OVER 40 CONGRESS MPS CRITICIZING THE CPI FOR "INTERFERING" IN CONGRESS AFFAIRS HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN THE PRESS SINCE THE WEKEND AND WE ARE TOLD OEVER A HUNDRED HAVE SIGNED THUS FAR. THE "LEFT" CONGRESS MPS

ARE ANNOYED AND ANGRY, SOME OF THE FUTHEST "LEFT" EVEN PRIVATELY COMPLAINING THAT THE PARTY IS BEING TAKEN TOWARD "FASCISM" AND CHARGING THAT THE YOUTH CONGRESS IS BEING FILLED UP WITH REFUGEES FROM THE RSS (TO SOME DEGREE TRUE).

3. THE CPI ITSELF SEEMS DIVIDED AS TO WHAT TO DO, INCLUDING HOW FAR TO COOPERATE WITH THE CPM. IN WEST BENGAL, IT HAS ALLIED ITSELF WITH THOSE SUPPORTING CHIEF MINISTER RAY, INCLUDING THE CPM AND SEVERAL CONGRESS GROUPS WHICH HAVE IN THE PAST THEMSELVES BEEN BITTERLY ANTI-CPI. THE WEST BENGAL'S CPI NEWSPAPER IS STRIDENT IN ITS CRITICISM OF SANJAY. THE NATIONAL WEEKLY "NEW AGE" HAS FOLLOWED A SIMILAR LINE, EVEN INCLUDING IN ITS DECEMBER 12 ISSUE A THEORETICAL ARTICLE BY A CPI POLITBURO MEMBER WHICH CONTAINS THE ONLY EXPLICIT WARNING THAT THE PARTY MAY TURN TO ARMED STRUGGLE OF WHICH WE ARE AWARE IN RECENT YEARS--A THREAT THAT "TWISTS AND TURNS IN THE SITUATION MAY MAKE ARMED CIVIL WAR INEVITABLE." (WHILE THIS DOESN'T HAVE THE FORCE OF FORMAL PARTY POLICY, THE LAST OFFICIAL CPI REFERENCE TO ARMED STRUGGLE OCCURRED IN 1958.)

4. PARTY GENERAL SECY RAJESHWAR RAO ISSUED A CONFUSING PUBLIC STATEMENT DECEMBER 14 THAT THE CPI DID NOT WANT A CONFRONTATION WITH CONGRESS AND WOULD WORK FOR THE "FIVE-POINT PROGRAM." THIS WAS WIDELY INTERPRETED IN THE PRESS (AND PRODUCED CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES FROM SEVERAL CONGRESS MPS) AS MEANING A BENDING OF THE KNEE TO SANJAY GANDHI'S FIVE POINTS. RAO ISSUED A CORRECTION THE NEXT DAY THAT HE WAS TALKING ONLY OF THE CPI'S OWN COMPETING FIVE-POINT PROGRAM, AN OPERATIONAL AGENDA ANNOUNCED LAST WEEK FOR IMPLEMENT-

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NEW DE 18127 161347Z

ING A NEW CPI APPEAL TO EXTEND THE PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM, NATIONALIZE WHOLESALE FOOD TRADE, GUARANTEE RENUMERATIVE PRICES FOR FARMERS, PROVIDE ADEQUATE BONUS FOR WORKERS AND PREVENT LOCKOUTS AND LAYOFFS, AND NATIONALIZE THE TEXTILE, JUTE AND SUGAR INDUSTRY. THE GENERAL STATE OF CPI-CONGRESS RELATIONS WILL CLEARLY BE THE CENTRAL THEME OF THE CPI CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR EARLY JANUARY.

5. IN ACTUAL FACT, ASIDE FROM WEST BENGAL, BIHAR, ORISSA, AND ISOLATED SPOTS IN A FEW OTHER STATES, THE CPI HAS LITTLE EFFECTIVE CADRE OR GRASS ROOTS STRENGTH WITH WHICH TO LAUNCH AN EFFECTIVE MOVEMENT AGAINST CONGRESS. IF IT GOES INTO OPPOSITION, THE COALITION GOVT IN KERALA WILL FALL, BUT CONGRESS AND OTHER ASSOCIATED PARTIES MAY WELL BE ABLE TO FORM ANOTHER GOVT WITHOUT CPI SUPPORT. IN ANY EVENT, AN OPEN ATTEMPT TO GO INTO FULL OPPOSITION WOULD PLAY INTO THE HANDS OF THOSE NUMEROUS ELEMENTS IN THE CONGRESS PARTY WHO ARE LOOKING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO CRUSH

THE CPI.
SCHNEIDER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, COMMUNISTS, POLITICAL PARTIES, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NEWDE18127
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760463-0635
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761237/aaaabfqo.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <03 SEP 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CPI-CONGRESS SCRAPPING AND SNARLING
TAGS: PINT, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006